

February 15, 2010

# Legislative Update 2010



Iowa Department of Human Services

## Special points of interest:

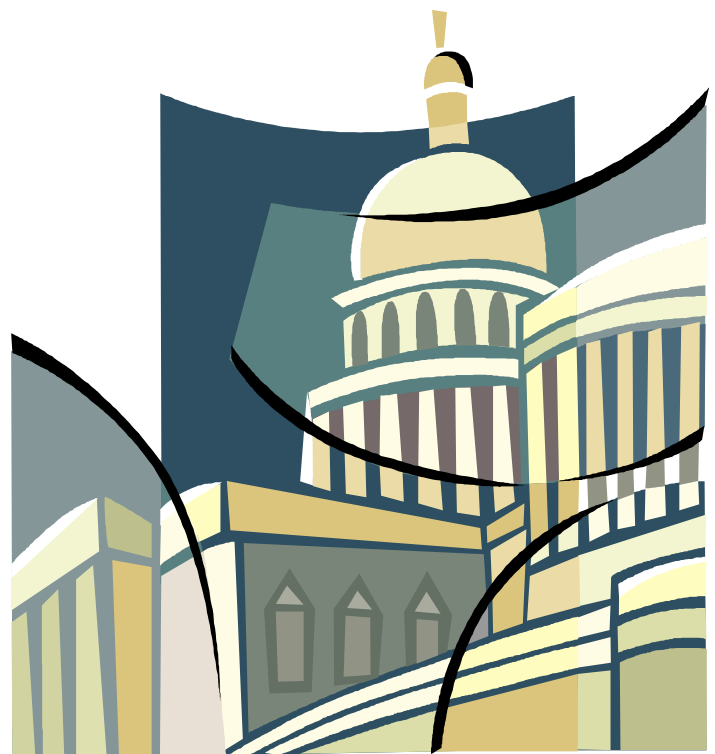
- \* Governor Signs Early Retirement Legislation
- \* Woodward Acting Superintendent Named
- \* Status of MHI Closure
- \* IowaCare Plus

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## "Governor Signs Early Retirement Bill-SF 2062"

Governor Culver signed SF 2062, the "early retirement" bill, last week. Governor Culver remarked that the \$60 million in savings that are estimated from implementation of the legislation will help to "protect our priorities" in the budget.



## Woodward Acting Superintendent Named

A recent legislative update noted the departure of Woodward Superintendent Jim Finch. This week there is news that Assistant Su-

perintendent Marsha Edgington-Bott has been named acting Superintendent. We wish her the best in this new endeavor.

## State Government Reorganization: Status of MHI Closure

SF 2088 was still being debated by the Iowa House at the time of this writing (Friday afternoon). However, an amendment to the House State Government Committee amendment was adopted that effectively removed all references to closure of a mental health institute. As you may recall, the evolution of this debate in the Legislature has been, in order, closure of Mt. Pleasant then closure of Clarinda then development of a mental health continuum of mental health services. It is anticipated that Legislators will address this subject further during budget development.

### Did you know?

Changes are being made in state law to change the phrase "mental retardation" to "intellectual disabilities".

## Legislature Clarifies Intent on Abuse Registries

HF 2223 was amended and passed by House Human Resources Committee last week. The amendment strikes the entire bill and inserts the following language: "It is the intent of the general assembly that lowans' rights to due process shall be recognized when a state agency is determining if a person is to be placed on the child abuse registry or the dependent adult abuse registry. It is the intent of the general assembly that no lowans shall be placed on the child abuse registry or the dependent adult abuse registry prior to being notified that they are being investigated for an allegation of abuse. It is the intent of the general assembly that lowans placed on the child abuse registry and dependent adult abuse registry shall be entitled to a timely administrative hearing and a timely appeal." The bill moves to the House Calendar for further consideration.

## Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ)

Iowa needs to adopt a new Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) in order to comply with national requirements. The current Iowa Compact has been in place since 1955. The proposed compact provides a legal framework and procedural means for regulating the movement of juveniles who are under court supervision across state lines. The compact also provides procedures for the return of juveniles who have run away from home or absconded from supervision. DHS is working with Legislators to find an appropriate legislative vehicle for this language. Adoption of the new Iowa compact is necessary

before December 2010. It is estimated that approximately 200 youth annually would be impacted.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Week of February 15th—**

Budget Targets expected to be announced.

### **March 5th—2nd Funnel Deadline**

### **March 11th—Revenue Estimating Conference Meets**

**\*Schedule subject to change**



## **IowaCare Plus and Iowa Choice Exchange**

SF 2092 creates an expansion of the IowaCare program and creates the "Iowa Choice Exchange". The IowaCare expansion is meant, the words of the bill sponsor Senator Jack Hatch (D-Des Moines) as the vehicle to "dramatically allow Iowa to position itself" to implement federal health care reform. Furthermore, it is the beginning of creating a true "system of care" in Iowa. The intent of the legislation is to provide health care access to those individuals who are not otherwise covered by private insurance

or public benefits. In addition, the bill establishes a regional provider network thereby expanding access that is currently only available at the University of Iowa and Broadlawns Hospital. The "Exchange" is designed to provide a portal where uninsured Iowans can receive assistance in obtaining health care coverage and to provide an information clearinghouse where all Iowans can obtain information about health care coverage that is available in the state including comparisons of benefits, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs. Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer has been monitoring and analyzing the legislation throughout its development and will have technical advice to offer as the proposal evolves. Senator Seymour (R-Woodbine) expressed his thoughts that the bill's "motives are good" but that he had concerns about the price tag.

### **Did You Know?**

In SFY 2010 Child Support Recovery Unit expects to serve 198,909 cases, with 700,160 parents and children. In SFY 2011 they expect to serve a net increase of 3,351 cases. The goal of the unit is to provide support to children to ensure safe and healthy environments and adequate food.



Iowa Department of Human Services

The Mission of the Iowa Department of Human Services is to help individuals and families achieve safe, stable, self-sufficient, and healthy lives, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the state. We do this by keeping a customer focus, striving for excellence, sound stewardship of state resources, maximizing the use of federal funding and leveraging opportunities, and by working with our public and private partners to achieve results.

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